



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

GRADUATE COUNCIL Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 from 9-10:30 via zoom

Attendees: Fetter (Chair), Avilez, Cohen, Dasgupta, DeMaria, Gao, Gold, Hanson, Julin, Kim, Laffin, Lawley, May, Moser Jones, Mullin, Qu, Rabenhorst, Sayer (cochair), Shea, Sheaff, Sprinkle, Turner, Vera, Waguespack, Xie

Ex Officio and GS Staff: Ambrosi, Beise, Enekwe, Fisher Liu, Gittens, O'Connell, Roberts, Strausser, Warrick-Bell

AGENDA

1. Welcome
 - a. Fetter welcomed everyone at 10:01.
2. Approve [11/17 meeting minutes](#)
 - a. Minutes are approved, no comments or corrections
3. Updates and announcements
 - a. PhD alumni network and data
 - The Graduate School has hosted meetings with alumni on the east and west coasts.
 - These events look to use the alumni as a resource for current students, especially when it comes to professional development
 - Positive response from alumni so far
 1. Fetter recommends departments connect with alumni if they do not do so already. The alumni seem very willing to engage with campus.
 - 20 years of alumni data has been collected
 1. Alumni have mentioned that they would like access to this, if possible. More details to come.
 - b. gradSERU
 - SERU - **S**tudent **E**xperience in the **R**esearch **U**niversity
 1. When we first rolled out the survey, the response rate was poor (17%)
 - The GS is asking that departments also promote the survey to help get better response rates.
 - c. Exceptional recruitment funds
 - We are dedicating additional resources to recruiting exceptional and diverse students- the focus is applicants from underrepresented groups. The DGS have the request forms for those funds. When requesting



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

exceptional recruitment funds, a program or college must agree to matching funds.

1. For Fall 2021 applicants (not current students)
 2. Deadline is April 1 and will be in the offer letter for admitted students
- d. International and candidacy tuition fellowships
- 2 in response to the pandemic
 1. 1 fellowship for international students.
 2. 1 fellowship for students who were delayed by the pandemic and have no other tuition remission.
- e. CRRSAA emergency grants
- 10.7 Million Allocation from
 1. 1.9 Million went to graduate students with a maximum 2500 grant per student.
 2. These emergency grants are only open to citizens and permanent residents due to federal regulations.
 - Campus is still waiting for another 10.7 million allocation.
 - The Graduate School is hopeful that there will be more available from a 3rd relief bill.
 - Dean Fetter is discussing additional funding with the provost.
- f. Compliance with health insurance requirement
- 87% compliance with the new policy.
 1. We hope to get that number over 90%.
 2. We think that a portion of the other 13% have health insurance and they just have not reported it.
 - We do not want to implement a hard waiver requirement (similar to undergraduate requirement). Please encourage all graduate students to comply with policy.
- g. Partnership with VPR on grant proposal assistance for graduate students
- This new person will work directly with graduate students on fellowship proposals and will work with faculty who are working on grants that include graduate student funding.
 - For programs that have staff doing this already, that staff should continue this important support, but they can also work with the new person.
- h. Remote defense review
- We have been surveying students and faculty about their experiences. We will be summarizing all of that in a report so we can review lessons learned. We expect there to be a desire for more remote participation. Stay tuned- we will distribute the report as soon as it is available.
- i. Graduate Council vacancies for AY 21-22
- 7 graduate faculty whose terms are ending



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Dean Fetter gave an early thank you to those who are leaving the Graduate Council.
 - We have alerted respective colleges about the need to identify members' replacements.
 - We are also looking for new student members and Dean Fetter welcomes nominations for the student members.
 - j. Update to [outside employment policy](#)
 - Modified policy to make it clear that the restrictions apply no matter the source of funds.
 - k. Modification to the [withdrawal policy](#); [document](#) with track changes (UMD login)
 - Is not changing the policy but wanted to send out a reminder that the withdrawal can be back dated by the CGS or DGS so that the student isn't charged. These documents were drafted to update the Graduate Catalog to reflect the current practice.
 - Programs can backdate up until the 10th week or the registrar can override it if it is not done in time.
 1. Will look into why it is the 10th week / can it be extended
 - l. TerpEngage update
 - We experienced a lot of challenges in the implementation.
 - Making significant progress in addressing outstanding tickets
 1. Looks to get them to a reasonable level by the next graduate directors meeting and then out a 48 hr return window
 - Reach out to Scott Roberts (scott@umd.edu) if there are still any pressing issues that need to be resolved
 - m. [Penalties for dropping a course](#)
4. Action Items
- a. Vote - Revisions to [Doctoral Dissertation & Examining Committee](#) (UMD login required)
 - Making it so that faculty can not be the Dean's Representative if they leave the university (with some exceptions)
 - Exceptions would be handled by emailing Brooke Fisher Liu (bfliu@umd.edu) or Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu). Requests are handled in about 2 business days.
 - Approved by the Graduate Council.
5. Discussion Items
- a. [Policy on GA stipends](#)
 - Longstanding policy is all GAs in a particular department at a particular step with the same appointment get the same stipend
 - 3 departments have come saying that they would like to pay certain GAs more but can't afford to pay all GA's more
 1. Ex: pay PhD students more than Masters students



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Concerns when students are supported by grants and contracts as well as GA pay and when students are doing the same work but being paid differently
 - Grad School does not want our policy to stand in the way when a program wants to pay a student more.
 - Workarounds: place students on 12 month appointments or offer them a fellowship (could get complicated if fellowship is funded by grants or contracts)
 1. Standard approach is giving a fellowship
 - Dean Fetter will be discussing this with Associate Dean's in each college at their next meeting.
6. Future Discussion
- a. Add a residence credit requirement to our master's degree policies
 - b. Add a thesis credit maximum

The meeting adjourned at 11:01

As a reminder, the Graduate Council will meet at the following days and times for AY 20-21.

March 8: 2:30-4

April 19: 1-2:30

These minutes were unanimously approved at the 3/24/21 Graduate Council Meeting.